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TO

THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS

FROM

THE TRUSTEES

OF

The College of Charleston.

CHARLESTON, SO. CA.

PRINTED BY EVANS & COGSWELL.

No. 3 Broad and 103 East Bay Streets.

1860.

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ADDRESS.

TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS:

The Trustees of the College of Charleston, with the view of promoting the prosperity and extending the benefits of this excellent Institution, respectfully beg leave to call the attention of our fellow-citizens to the great advantages which it affords, and to its high importance to our city, and to invoke for it increased patronage and encouragement.

When the patriots of the Revolution had vindicated their independence, they determined, as the best means of securing and perpetuating the benefits of their victory, to provide the highest order of education that could be obtained for our country. In March, 1785, (IV Pub. Laws, 674) the Legislature passed an Act creating three Colleges, of which one was to be in Charleston, and they designated twenty-one of the most distinguished gentlemen of the State, and their successors, elected as therein directed, to be forever "one body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, by the style of the Trustees of the College of Charleston;" and soon after, the Right Reverend Robert Smith, D. D., the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina, named in the Act as a Trustee, was elected Principal of the College, and under his auspices and the supervision of the Trustees, the Institution went into operation. In 1791, (V Pub. Laws, 198) another Act was passed, having relation exclusively to the College of Charleston, again naming the Trustees, incorporating them

by their first and only title. vesting in them all the rights and powers granted by the former Act, and conferring on them additional advantages. From that time they have earnestly endeavored to carry out the intention of the Legislature, and to make the Institution a great public benefit. After its first organization, the Trustees sometimes found much difficulty in procuring gentlemen of the requisite scholarship and science to guide and govern it successfully. Occasionally, brief suspensions in its exercises occurred. But for nearly forty years, from the time when one of our first graduates, the venerable and venerated Nathaniel Bowen, D. D., then the well beloved Protestant Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina, acted as President of the Faculty, the exercises have not been suspended, and we have constantly enjoyed the benefit of a Faculty, possessing every requisite for the performance of their high functions, and placing education of the first order within the reach of all our citizens. We shall not speak of the gentlemen who now form that body. They are well known to our community. We merely submit their names and the departments which they respectively teach :

THE FACULTY.

N. R. MIDDLETON, LL. D., PRESIDENT,

*Professor of Logic, Political Economy and the Evidences of Christianity and History
Professor of Moral, Intellectual and Political Philosophy.*

WILLIAM HAWKESWORTH, A. M.,

*Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature, and of
Roman and Greek Antiquities.*

LEWIS R. GIBBES, M. D.,

*Professor of Mathematics, Chemistry, Mineralogy and Natural Philosophy, comprising
Dynamics, Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Hydraulics, Aerostatics,
Pneumatics, Astronomy, Optics, Electricity and Magnetism.*

JOHN McCRADY,

*Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Geometry, Algebra, Plain and Spherical
Trigonometry, Mensuration, Surveying and Navigation.*

FREDERICK A. PORCHER,

*Professor of History, Ancient and Modern; Rhetoric, Belles Lettres, English
Composition and Elocution.*

F. S. HOLMES,

*Professor of Zoology, in all its branches; Geology and Palaeontology, and
Curator of the Museum.*

LEWIS R. GIBBES, M. D., SECRETARY TO THE FACULTY.

Professor JAMES W. MILES, LIBRARIAN.

These gentlemen do honor to their professions, and are entitled to unlimited confidence and respect. Let the tree be judged by its fruit. Let our College be judged from her sons. We can point to our graduates who have held and now hold distinguished positions in the first ranks of social, commercial, professional, and political life. In them we feel that the College of Charleston has amply repaid all the patronage which she has ever received. Their Alma Mater is justly proud of her children.

But with this source of sincere congratulation, it is due to truth and justice—it is due to the best and dearest interests of our city to say, that we have been disappointed and pained that so few comparatively, of our citizens, have availed themselves for their sons, of the inestimable benefits, which, by the liberality of the State and city, and the voluntary and welcome aid of individual citizens, have been put within their reach. The numbers of students in our College, though respectable, have been much fewer than assuredly they ought to have been, if coming *only* from our own city population. On the most accurate proximate computation, which from attainable data we have been able to make, we believe that there are in our city from one thousand to twelve hundred youths, between fifteen and twenty years of age, who might, under judicious, prudent auspices, enjoy the full benefit of a Collegiate education. Of that number, some forty or fifty may seek it in the noble Institution in Columbia, or some similar Seminary in our State, and perhaps an equal number in some of our sister States, leaving nine hundred or eleven hundred to look for it to our College. How few, comparatively, of that large number, have profited by the advantages here provided for them.

Every encouragement yet given—every exertion yet made, has fallen short of realizing our just expectations. In addition to an able, learned, and scientific Faculty, we have means of improvement of the highest value, some not surpassed—indeed, seldom equaled in any other Seminary. With all the usual mathematical, philosophical and chemical apparatus, we have a Museum, pronounced by the highest authority to be the second best in the United States—and in all the objects of Mineralogy, Zoology and Palæontology that specially belong to our Southern country, we believe it to be the best. From this Museum, and the general course of Lectures in it, young gentlemen destined for Engineering, Mineralogical, and kindred pursuits, may derive much very valuable knowledge.

A valuable and well selected Library, the gift, principally, of a liberal gentleman of our city, belongs to the College, and is open to all the students. They can never fail to find with us every facility for prosecuting any favorite enquiry to the utmost extent to which books can aid them. All these means of improvement are presented to the sons of the citizens of Charleston, in combination with a residence at home, making high education compatible with economy, and meeting happily the views of those who would unite intellectual culture with the influences of the family and of the society in which we live.

With a just estimate of these advantages, and judicious and prudent exertions and foresight on the part of parents, few of our youths, between fifteen and twenty years of age, ought to be required to leave their studies and enter on any of the usual avocations of life until they have passed through college, and been distinguished by

its honors. No youth, of limited means and respectable character, who, in any of our public or private schools, has been prepared, and desired to enter College, has, so far as we know, failed to attain his desire. Public and private liberality have, in our College, provided for such students, scholarships, honorable to those by whom they are given, and to those by whom they are received.

In no country is the highest education more profoundly estimated, or more likely to fix a man's position, than in South Carolina. No other earthly pursuit—not the acquisition of wealth or of political distinction—is so dear to the general heart. But the adventurous spirit, the enterprise, the ambition that pervade our society, the unparalleled rapidity with which our country has rushed forward to unexampled influence and prosperity, the constant demand for auxiliaries, for talents, activity and energy, precipitate the majority of our youth into the business of life before they are fully prepared, by a thorough education.

Our schools, from those that impart the first rudiments of our language, to those that teach the higher branches, we earnestly believe will compare favorably with the best seminaries of the kind in our country. They have won, as they deserve, the entire confidence of our community. The youth who has gone successfully through them, ought to be well prepared for the general business of life. But if he be destined to any of the learned professions, or aspires to a high place in literature, science, or the councils of the country, it will be of the utmost importance to him that he should pass through, and, if possible, thoroughly master the whole curriculum of a collegiate education, that he should have a full and comprehensive

view, and, as far as possible, an intimate knowledge of the circle of learning and science considered necessary for a scholar and a gentleman before he enters on his professional studies.

We are aware that a familiar acquaintance with the classic languages of antiquity, is now more rare than it used to be among us; we fear it is greatly undervalued. We would not wish to revive the custom, when students spent much of their time in capping nonsense verses; but we should be delighted to think that every graduate, who received the honors of our College, could take a volume of Plato or Cicero and read it at the opening of the book. We would not desire our sons to be book-worms, and wholly devoted to Latin and Greek, but we do earnestly desire that they should have a competent knowledge of these languages. Independently of their surpassing excellence as containing many of the noblest efforts of human genius, affording the amplest materials for expressing, with the highest grace and power, every emotion and sentiment that can inhabit the head or heart of man, and entering largely into the composition of the greater part of modern cultivated languages; they seem to us absolutely indispensable to the physician, the lawyer, the divine, the naturalist, the chemist, the student in almost every department of knowledge. They have furnished, probably, nine-tenths of the whole special vocabulary of the arts, sciences and professions; and even now, if a discovery is made, a new art or thing invented, we generally have recourse to them to find a name for it, we generally go to them for an appropriate designation. Such new-coined words are not easily understood in their full signification unless we know the elements of

their formation. We all can form an estimate of the difficulty of remembering the technicalities of any peculiar department of knowledge—and the value of these languages, that, in a great degree, remove that difficulty. A competent familiarity with Latin and Greek is invaluable to every student. We believe it can best be obtained before twenty years of age. And that, if it be not obtained by that time, the want of it, or a great deficiency of it, will, probably, during life, be some elog or hindrance to the most vigorous mind.

With the possession of such ample means of education, of the highest order, with the deep regard entertained for it, and the inestimable value of it to us and to our children, how comes it that so few, comparatively, of our youth, avail themselves of the advantages of our College? To you, fellow-citizens, in the name of the Trustees, we beg leave to submit these views, and to solicit your consideration of them. You have a noble institution. It is under the charge of an able and accomplished Faculty. It is supplied with the best means of improvement in learning and science. It enjoys some peculiar and great advantages. It has sent forth scholars and gentlemen, distinguished by its honors, of whom you may justly be proud. It has not received that extended patronage to which, we are convinced, it is fully entitled, and which you have the power, and, as we believe, are deeply interested, to bestow. The number of students has been, and is, respectable. But they scarcely amount to a tithe of those that ought to be in it. Instead of being numbered by fifties or sixties, they ought to be numbered by hundreds. We respectfully and earnestly invite and solicit you to increase your patronage to this institution. Give,

if possible, to all your sons of competent capacity the full benefit of a college education. Teach them the value of their birth-right; and that to be free and happy, they must be wise and good; and may freedom, wisdom and goodness be your and their inheritance for ever.

M. KING,
RICHARD YEADON,
GEO. S. BRYAN,

Committee Trustees College of Charleston.



